

**Malta Resource Management Plan
Economic Strategies Workshops Report:**

**Social and Economic Trends and Conditions
And
Workshop Summaries and Notes**

May 7, 2007



This report highlights economic and social trends and conditions that characterize the seven county management area of the Malta Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. It also summarizes and provides notes from the three Economic Strategies Workshops that took place in Shelby, Chinook and Glasgow on February 21-23, 2007.

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I. Malta Resource Management Area

Social and Economic Trends and Conditions

This section summarizes social and economic trends and conditions in each of the three areas where economic strategies workshops took place. All data was compiled from the Sonoran Institute's Economic Profile System, an automated trend analysis tool that uses data from the following federal sources: Bureau of the Census, County Business Patterns, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Regional Economic Information System (REIS) of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. The Economic Profile System is available for free download at www.sonoran.org.

The following information is based on the data in the EPS profiles for these areas. Throughout this report, when these areas are referenced, they include aggregated data from the counties that were covered by each workshop:

- Shelby area, which includes Toole, Glacier and Liberty Counties
- Chinook area, which includes Hill and Blaine Counties
- Glasgow area, which includes Valley and Phillips Counties

A. Population Growth

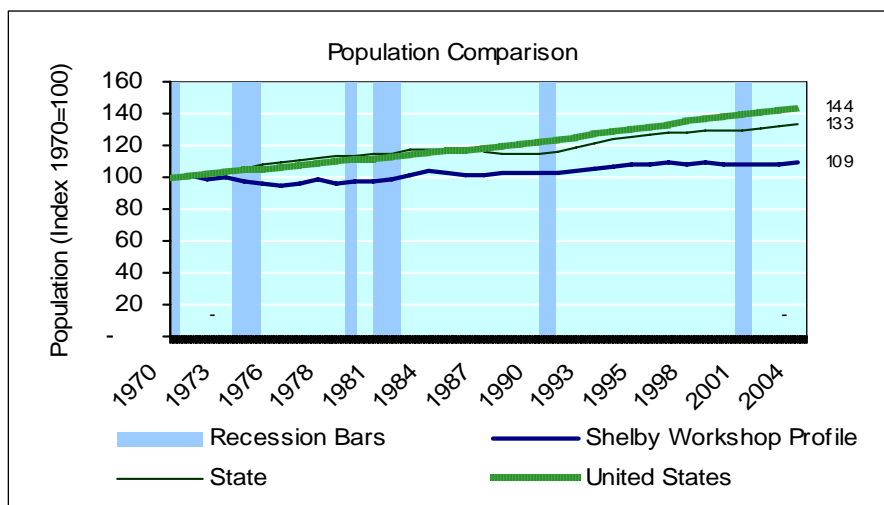
These graphs show the population change rate from 1970-2004. They also compare each area's population trend with Montana and national population growth rates.

- Of the three workshop areas, population has declined the most in the Glasgow area, at -1.1% - well below the U.S. median county and Montana rates.
- The population declined slightly in the Chinook area, by 0.1%, over the past three decades.
- Population in the Shelby area grew modestly, at .3% - well below the Montana and U.S. median county rates.
- The population of the Chinook area is the largest, with 23,016 residents in 2004. The Shelby area, with 20,075 residents, is nearly as populous.
- The Glasgow area population is about half that of the other two areas, with 11,483 residents.

Population Growth in Workshop Areas

Source: BEA REIS 2004 Table CA30, pg. 2 EPS Profiles

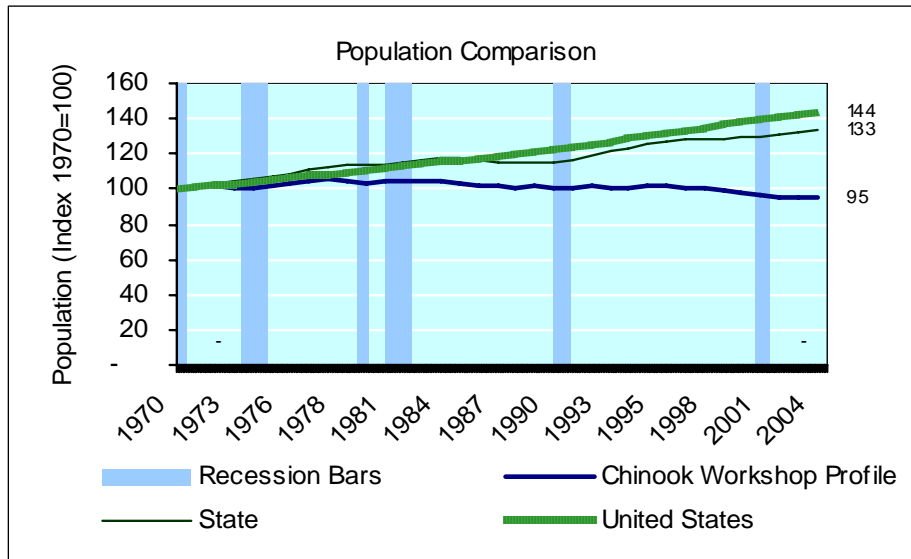
Shelby Area (Toole, Glacier and Liberty Counties)



2004 Population:
20,705

Growth Rate
(1970-2004): 0.3%

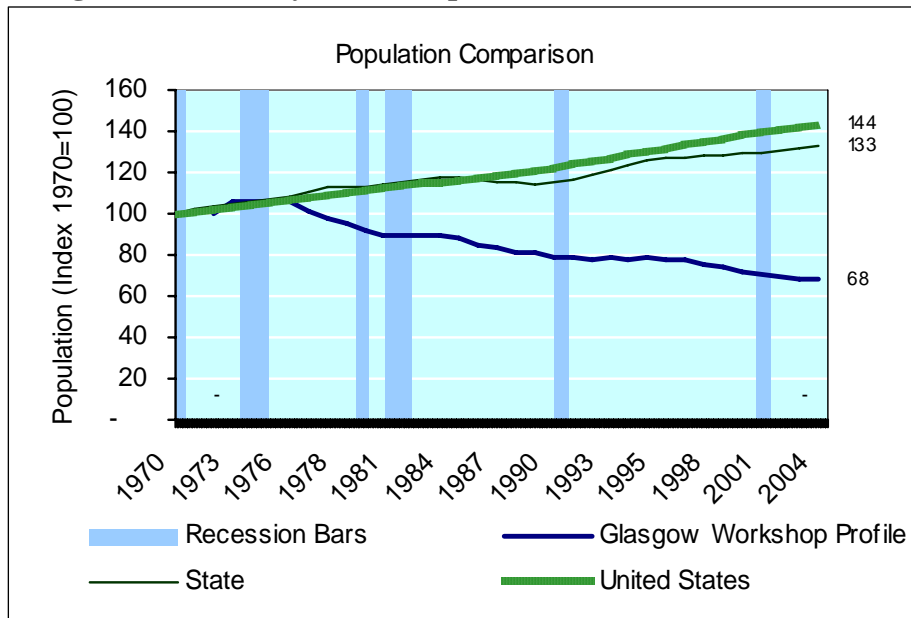
Chinook Area (Hill and Blaine Counties)



2004 Population:
23,016

Growth Rate
(1970-2004):
-0.10%

Glasgow Area (Valley and Phillips Counties)



2004 Population:
11,483

Growth Rate
(1970-2004):
-1.10%

B. Job Growth

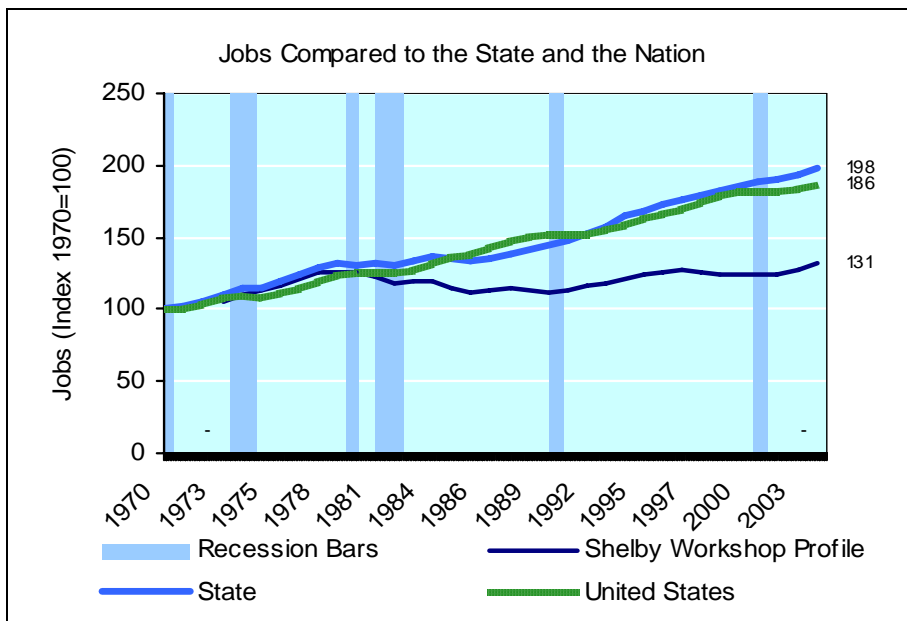
As with the population growth graphs, the job change graphs compare each area's growth rate with that of the state and nation.

Comparisons between these graphs and the population change graphs generally show a flattening in job growth in the Glasgow area, rather than the consistent decline noted in the Glasgow population graph; and up-ticks in job growth since 2000 in both the Shelby and Chinook areas, in contrast to the Shelby area's slight decline in population and the Chinook area's slow growth rate, as shown in the population growth graphs.

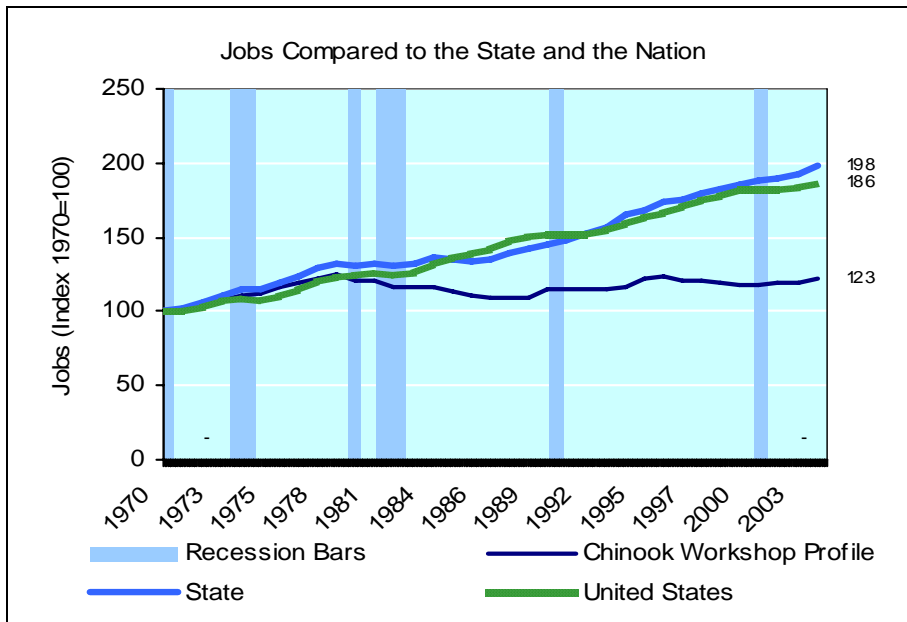
Job Growth in Workshop Areas

Source: BEA REIS 2004 Table CA30, pg. 7 EPS Profiles

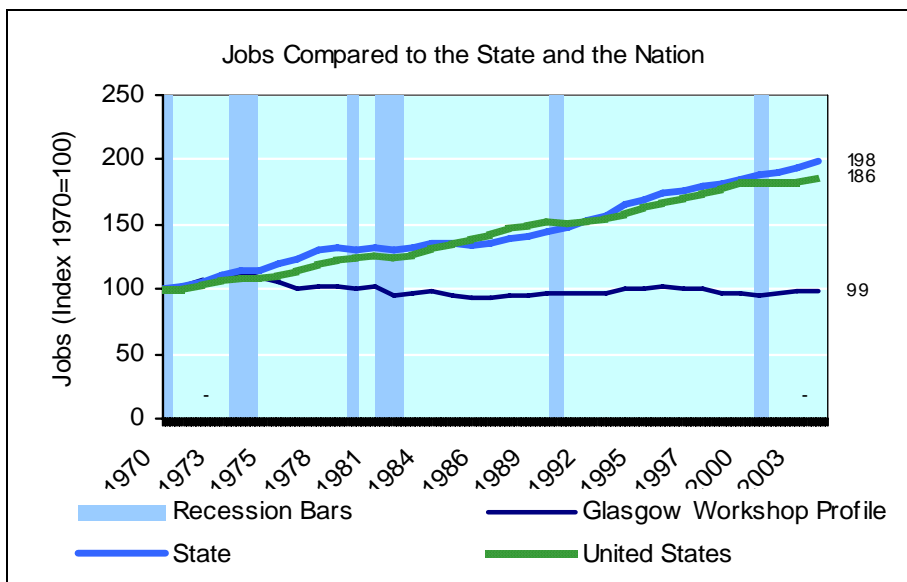
Shelby Area (Toole, Glacier and Liberty Counties)



Chinook Area (Hill and Blaine Counties)



Glasgow Area (Valley and Phillips Counties)



C. Employment History

The employment history graphs are most useful for identifying major employment sectors and how they have changed over time. The data starts in 1970 and stops in 2000 because the federal government switched data recording systems then and the two systems are not backward compatible. More recent and detailed data is available in the Wages and Employment section.

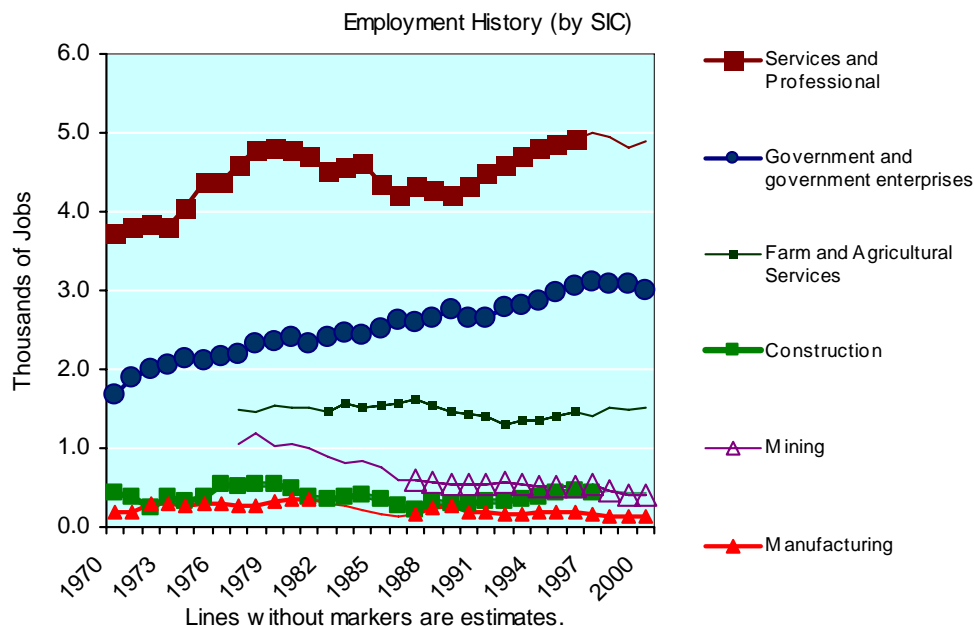
- The largest employment sector in all three of these study areas is services and professional – as it is in most U.S. counties. However, these areas contrast with most U.S. counties in that, in all three, services and professional grew fairly rapidly until about 1980, and since then has risen and fallen in about equal measures; in contrast, most U.S. counties have seen consistent growth in this sector since the 1970s.
- Government is the second largest employment sector in the Shelby and Chinook areas, and the third largest in the Glasgow area.
- Farm and agricultural services is the third largest employment sector in the Shelby and Chinook areas, and the second largest in the Glasgow area. In all three areas, this sector has been fairly flat since about 1980.
- Construction, manufacturing, and mining have played consistently small roles in each area's employment profile.

Major Employment Sectors and Trends in Workshop Areas

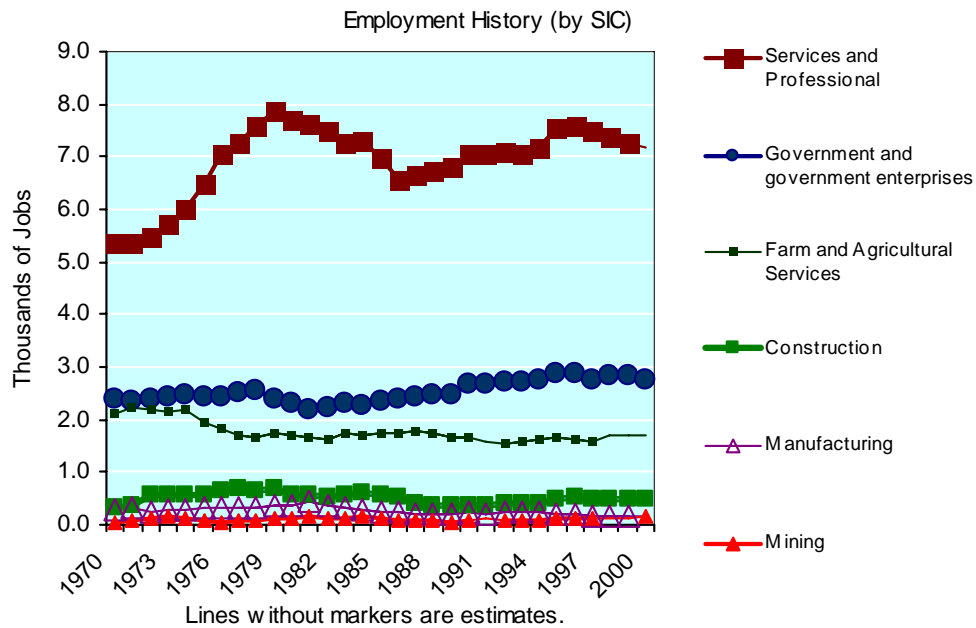
Source: BEA REIS 2004 CD Table CA25, pg. 28 EPS Profiles

Data ends in 2000 because the BEA switched to a different classification system (NAICS) in 2001.

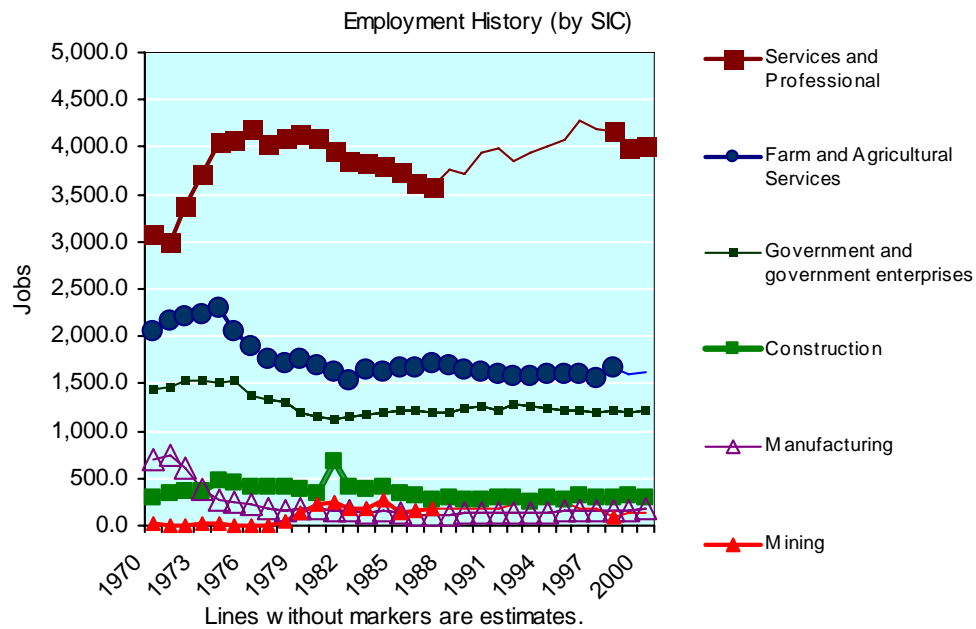
Shelby Area (Toole, Glacier and Liberty Counties)



Chinook Area (Hill and Blaine Counties)



Glasgow Area (Valley and Phillips Counties)



D. Personal Income

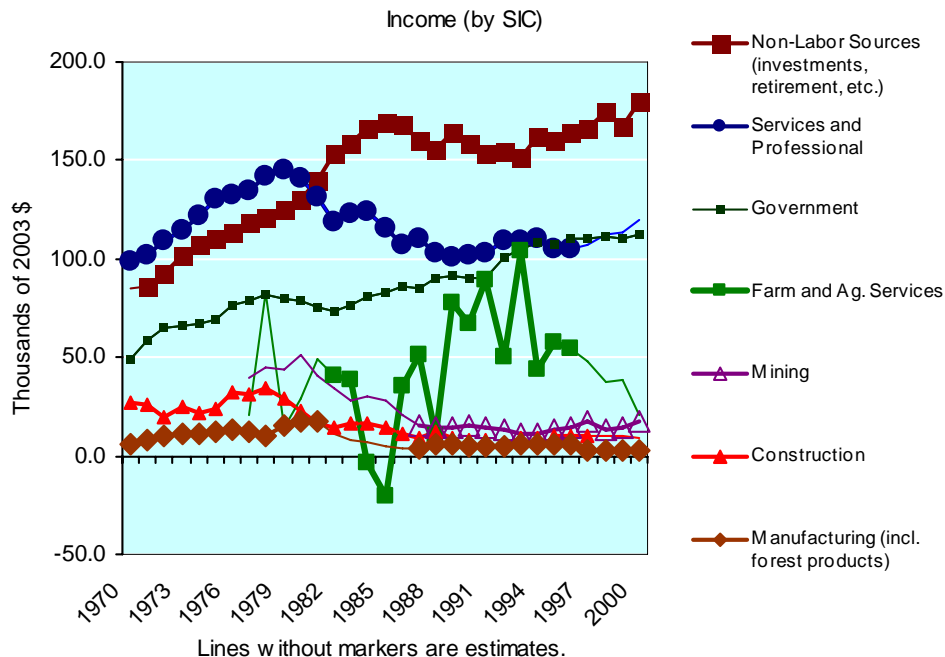
The personal income graphs are similar to the employment history graphs, with one important addition: they allow us to see the relative importance of non-labor income (“mailbox income” from retirement, investments, dividends, disability payments, welfare, other government transfer programs, etc.). This important source of income is often overlooked, but it is vital to many county economies. As with the employment history graphs, the data begins in 1970 and ends in 2000 due to the switch in federal data systems.

- Non-labor income is a key part of many county economies – and the largest income source in all three profile areas.
- Services and professional is the second largest income source in all three study areas, although government is nearly as large in the Shelby area. Government is a fairly distant third in the Chinook and Glasgow areas.
- Farm and agricultural services is the fourth-largest income source in all three study areas, despite accounting for a considerably larger share of employment, which indicates that wages in this sector are fairly low. This sector has also been most subject to booms and busts over the past three decades.
- Construction, manufacturing, and mining have played consistently small roles in each area’s personal income profile.

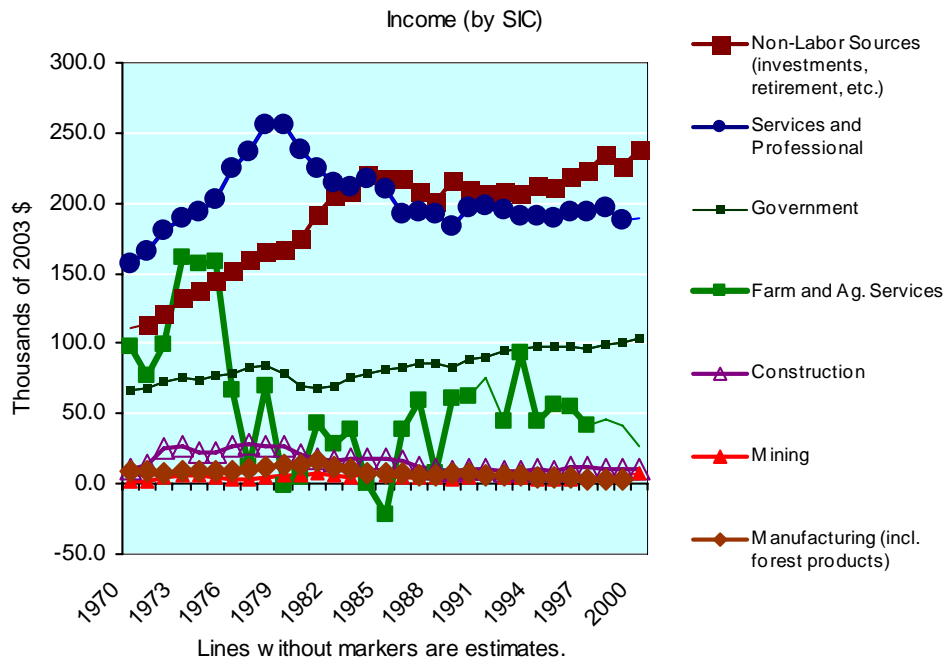
Major Sources of Personal Income – Sectors and Trends in Workshop Areas

Source: BEA REIS 2004 CD Table CA25, pg. 30 EPS Profiles

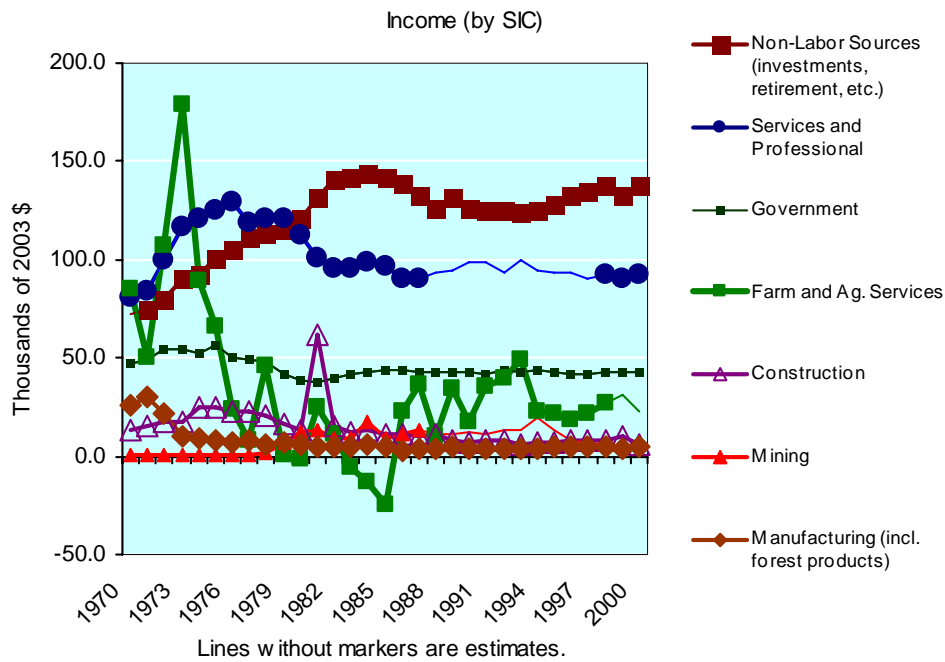
Shelby Area (Toole, Glacier and Liberty Counties)



Chinook Area (Hill and Blaine Counties)



Glasgow Area (Valley and Phillips Counties)



E. Wages and Employment

These tables break out the services and professional sector into greater detail; provide information about average annual wages in each sector; and include more recent data (2005) than the employment and personal income graphs do. They also provide information about the importance of tourism to the county's economy (the leisure and hospitality sector).

- Wages are slightly higher in the Shelby area, at \$24,838, than in either the Chinook (\$22,856) or Glasgow (\$22,767) areas.
- The trade, transportation, and utilities sector provides the largest percentage of employment in each area: 32% in the Shelby area, 27% in the Chinook area, and 28% in the Glasgow area. Such jobs pay slightly more than average in the Shelby and Glasgow areas and slightly less than average in the Chinook area.
- Education and health services is the second-largest source of employment in the Chinook (20%) and Glasgow (24%) areas, and the third largest in the Shelby area (24%). Wages in this sector are above average in all three areas.
- The 284 natural resources and mining jobs in the Chinook area are the best-paid in the region, averaging \$44,327. However, such jobs make up only 5% of the total in that area.
- Dependence on leisure and hospitality jobs (i.e. tourism) is far higher in the Shelby area (25% of total) than in the other two areas. This is the lowest paid sector in all counties, earning only \$9,268 in the Chinook area and \$8,755 in the Glasgow area, compared to \$15,135 in the Shelby area.

County Wages and Employment in 2005 in Workshop Areas

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (CEW), pg. 32 EPS Profiles

Shelby Area (Toole, Glacier, and Liberty Counties)

		Employment	% of Total	Average Annual Wages
Total, all industries		3,921	100%	\$ 24,383
Goods-Producing		555	14%	\$ 34,633
Natural Resources and Mining		340	9%	\$ 34,587
Construction		#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Manufacturing		#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Service-Providing		3,366	86%	\$ 22,693
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		1,236	32%	\$ 26,474
Information		84	2%	\$ 20,816
Financial Activities		160	4%	\$ 31,420
Professional and Business Services		354	9%	\$ 23,517
Education and Health Services		422	11%	\$ 27,789
Leisure and Hospitality		967	25%	\$ 15,135
Other Services		129	3%	\$ 15,471
Unclassified		2	0%	\$ 36,540

Chinook Area (Hill and Blaine Counties)

		Employ- ment	% of Total	Average Annual Wages
Total, all industries		5,212	100%	\$ 22,856
Goods-Producing		626	12%	\$ 33,736
Natural Resources and Mining		284	5%	\$ 44,327
Construction		277	5%	\$ 25,694
Manufacturing		65	1%	\$ 21,739
Service-Providing		4,586	88%	\$ 21,371
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		1,391	27%	\$ 21,174
Information		214	4%	\$ 37,609
Financial Activities		324	6%	\$ 30,905
Professional and Business Services		334	6%	\$ 26,703
Education and Health Services		1,018	20%	\$ 27,186
Leisure and Hospitality		918	18%	\$ 9,268
Other Services		357	7%	\$ 13,949
Unclassified		#N/A	#N/A	#N/A

Glasgow Area (Valley and Phillips Counties)

		Employ- ment	% of Total	Average Annual Wages
Total, all industries		2,819	100%	\$ 22,767
Goods-Producing		364	13%	\$ 27,514
Natural Resources and Mining		121	4%	\$ 31,471
Construction		150	5%	\$ 26,520
Manufacturing		93	3%	\$ 23,970
Service-Providing		2,456	87%	\$ 22,054
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		778	28%	\$ 25,698
Information		88	3%	\$ 27,879
Financial Activities		212	8%	\$ 30,192
Professional and Business Services		130	5%	\$ 22,017
Education and Health Services		681	24%	\$ 24,891
Leisure and Hospitality		459	16%	\$ 8,755
Other Services		109	4%	\$ 13,634
Unclassified		#N/A	#N/A	#N/A

F. Farming & Ranching

The agricultural data below gives an indication of the relative importance of crops compared to livestock, how this mix has changed over time, and other key details. The graphs on p. 14-15 provide a general sense of when and whether agriculture on the whole has been profitable in the county.

- Crops provide a larger share of agricultural income in the Shelby and Chinook areas; livestock is the larger share in the Glasgow area.
- Total net agricultural income in all three areas decreased from 1970-1994, but has rebounded in all three areas since then – only slightly in the Chinook area, more substantially in the Shelby area, and nearly double in the Glasgow area.
- The mid-1980s marked a low point for net farm income in all three areas, but all rebounded during the 1990s. A decline in the late 1990s has been followed by an increase more recently in the Shelby and Chinook areas. The Glasgow area has been more consistent since the late 1980s.

Gross Income, Expenses, and Net Income from Farming and Ranching:
Source: BEA REIS 2004 CD Table CA45, pg. 32 EPS Profiles

Shelby Area (Toole, Glacier, and Liberty Counties)

All figures in thousands of 2004 dollars	1970	% of Gross Income	1994	% of Gross Income	2004	% of Gross Income	70-04 Change in Share
Gross Income (Cash + Other)	220,005		224,708		189,186		
Cash Receipts from Marketings	181,169	82%	180,941	81%	140,802	74.4%	-8%
Livestock & Products	41,149	19%	37,384	17%	46,650	24.7%	6%
Crops	140,020	64%	143,558	64%	94,152	49.8%	-14%
Other Income	38,836	18%	43,767	19%	48,384	25.6%	8%
Government Payments	35,297	16%	35,803	16%	32,739	17.3%	1%
Imputed Rent & Rent Received	3,539	2%	7,964	4%	15,645	8.3%	7%
Total Net Income (Inc. corporate farms)	99,474		44,765		56,861		

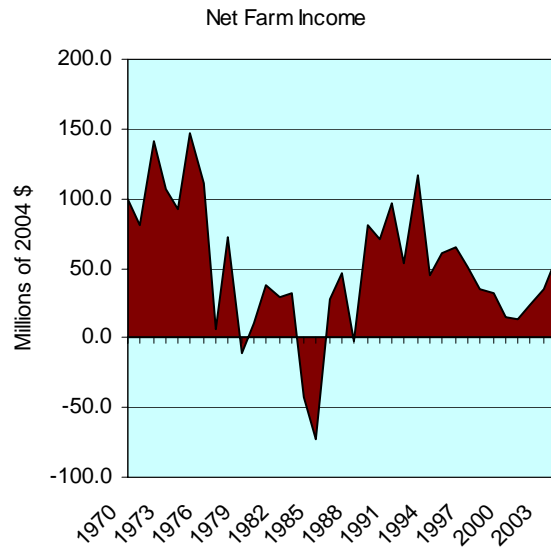
Chinook Area (Hill and Blaine Counties)

All figures in thousands of 2004 dollars	1970	% of Gross Income	1994	% of Gross Income	2004	% of Gross Income	70-04 Change in Share
Gross Income (Cash + Other)	225,818		218,502		175,506		
Cash Receipts from Marketings	189,309	84%	178,609	82%	135,989	77.5%	-6%
Livestock & Products	76,675	34%	41,697	19%	43,836	25.0%	-9%
Crops	112,634	50%	136,912	63%	92,153	52.5%	3%
Other Income	36,509	16%	39,893	18%	39,517	22.5%	6%
Government Payments	31,310	14%	34,576	16%	32,826	18.7%	5%
Imputed Rent & Rent Received	5,200	2%	5,318	2%	6,691	3.8%	2%
Total Net Income (Inc. corporate farms)	86,276		43,353		43,959		

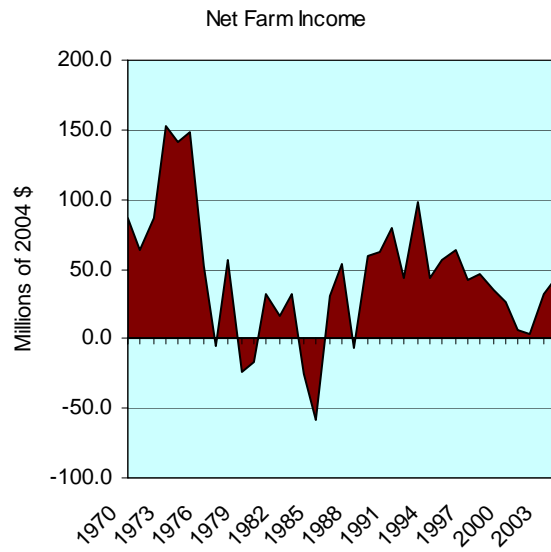
Glasgow Area (Valley and Phillips Counties)

All figures in thousands of 2004 dollars	1970	% of Gross Income	1994	% of Gross Income	2004	% of Gross Income	70-04 Change in Share
Gross Income (Cash + Other)	213,890		154,985		146,681		
Cash Receipts from Marketings	184,275	86%	122,399	79%	115,153	78.5%	-8%
Livestock & Products	100,964	47%	51,744	33%	77,446	52.8%	6%
Crops	83,311	39%	70,655	46%	37,707	25.7%	-13%
Other Income	29,615	14%	32,586	21%	31,528	21.5%	8%
Government Payments	25,424	12%	27,094	17%	22,693	15.5%	4%
Imputed Rent & Rent Received	4,192	2%	5,492	4%	8,835	6.0%	4%
Total Net Income (Inc. corporate farms)	75,784		15,556		28,516		

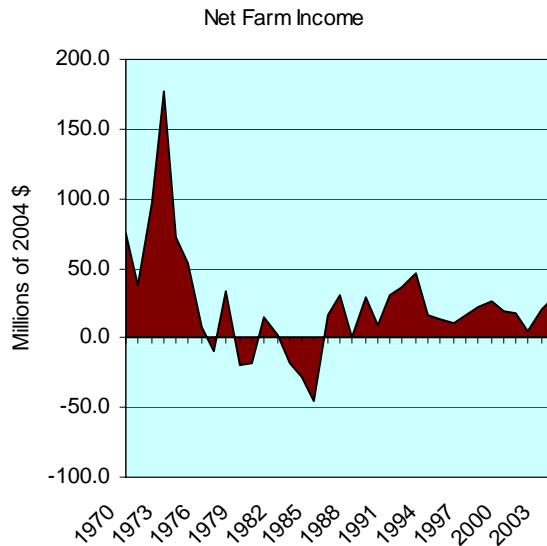
Shelby Area (Toole, Glacier and Liberty Counties)



Chinook Area (Hill and Blaine Counties)



Glasgow Area (Valley and Phillips Counties)



G. Additional Information – Other Social and Economic Indicators:

This table contains a range of information that may also be useful in understanding differences between various areas of the field office:

- Personal income growth rate is lower than the median U.S. county rate of 2.2% in all three areas, but highest in the Chinook area, at 1.0%.
- Per capita income is lower than the median U.S. county rate of \$25,335 in the Shelby area (\$23,104), but higher in the Chinook (\$26,351) and Glasgow (\$28,342) areas.
- Average earnings per job are highest in the Shelby area at \$31,249 and lowest in the Glasgow area, at \$25,342.
- Education rate – Higher than the median U.S. county in all three areas.
- Unemployment rate – Higher than median U.S. county in the Shelby area at 5.9%; lowest in Glasgow at 4.1%.
- Non-labor share of income – Higher than the U.S. median (36.7%) in all three areas; highest in Glasgow (46.6%), then Chinook (45.2%), then Shelby (40.6%).
- Median age – higher than the national county median of 37.3 in the Glasgow area (41.3); lower in the other two areas (34.5 in both).

Other Social and Economic Indicators

p. 25 EPS Profiles

	Personal income growth rate*	Per capita income (2004)	Average earnings per job (2004)	Education rate (2000 Census)**	Unemployment rate (2005)	Non-Labor Share of Income
Shelby Area	0.70%	\$ 23,104	\$ 31,249	16.70%	5.90%	40.60%
Chinook Area	1.00%	\$ 26,351	\$ 29,815	19.20%	4.30%	45.20%
Glasgow Area	0.10%	\$ 28,342	\$ 25,342	16.20%	4.10%	46.60%
Median U.S. County	2.20%	\$ 25,335	\$ 29,750	14.50%	5.20%	36.70%

*Adjusted for Inflation, Annualized rate, 1970-2004

**% population over age 25 w/ college degree, 2000 Census

Age Distribution

p. 4 EPS Profiles

	Median age (2000 Census)	% < Age 20 in 2000	% 40-54 (Baby Boomers) in 2000	% > Age 65 in 2000
Shelby Area	34.5	35%	21%	12%
Chinook Area	34.5	33%	22%	13%
Glasgow Area	41.3	28%	23%	18%
Median U.S. County	37.3	29%	21%	12%

II. Economic Strategies Workshop Summaries and Notes

A. Workshop Format

Three Economic Strategies Workshops took place in Shelby, Chinook, and Glasgow, Montana in February 2007 for the Malta Field Office Resource Management Plan. Sonoran Institute staff Rebecca Carter and Sarah Waring facilitated each workshop. BLM staff members Claire Trent and John Thompson participated in each workshop as well. Rich Adams of the Malta FO also attended in Shelby and Chinook, and John Fahlgren, Assistant Field Manager of the Glasgow FO, attended in Glasgow.

Each workshop began with BLM and Sonoran Institute staff welcoming the participants. BLM then explained the planning process and how information gathered during the workshop would be used in it. Workshop participants were asked to introduce themselves and give an indication of what why they had been interested in attending the workshop and what they hoped to get out of it.

Sonoran Institute staff then gave a presentation, *The Changing Economy of the West*, which highlighted key economic, social, and demographic trends at the global, national, and regional levels. After the presentation, participants discussed whether and how the trends described in the presentation were reflected in their respective communities.

From that point, the workshops launched into semi-structured discussions of various topics; notes from each discussion follow. Although an agenda (see Appendix 1) had been prepared for the workshops, the small group sizes made a less structured workshop more appropriate; therefore, the notes that follow reflect more informal and free-flowing discussions.

B. Workshop Summaries

The following summaries are compiled from notes taken during each workshop. Complete notes on what was discussed at each workshop, including names of attendees and specific issues, follows the summaries.

Shelby Area Workshop: The discussion in Shelby began by focusing on the history and current conditions in each of the three counties (Liberty, Toole, and Glacier). Many of the developments occurring in Toole County were attributed to active citizens interested in staying abreast of local issues and diversifying the local economy. The town of Shelby and the local government have focused on the strengths of the community – such as its status as a transportation hub – and are capitalizing on these existing assets to support industry and other economic sectors. These conditions were discussed in comparison with Liberty and Chester Counties, which were characterized as being less pro-active.

Participants at the workshop discussed a few key issues concerning the Malta Field Office area that they believe have an impact on the local economy. These included: access to public lands, public outreach and education, cultural sites, corridor development, recreation, and public purpose designations. Some specific geographic areas were also mentioned, such as the mining moratorium on the Sweetgrass Hills, the Marias River, and the Kevin Rim.

Participants in general were in agreement that access to public lands – and spillover onto private lands – needs to be well managed for the sake of both public and private interest. Partnerships with landowners, local law enforcement or the extension service were mentioned as possible

ways to manage access, although participants agreed that in general the access was ‘good’. To involve local people in management – and to ensure compliance with public land rules – participants also emphasized the need for public education and outreach, including maps, information stations, etc. Corridor development was also a concern and participants emphasized that less impact on the landscape by consolidating power lines and pipelines into corridors would be beneficial to them.

Chinook Area Workshop: In general, participants in the workshop agreed that housing prices in these counties (Blaine and Hill) are going up and that young people are generally moving away for jobs. Recreation, conservation and absentee land tenure is becoming more common as well, while farmers and ranchers are looking diversify their operations. Quality of life (including access to public lands), economic development, energy development and agriculture were all topics that participants agreed needed to be discussed in depth.

Recreation, such as hunting and fishing on public lands, was recognized as an area where more coordination could benefit local citizens. Advertising available day trips, identifying lands as open or closed, as well as sharing growth policies and plans annually were identified as strategies to succeed in maintaining this relationship. Participants also focused on better strategies for reclamation of mineral lease sites and better public education about the details of split-estate rights and regulations.

Glasgow Area Workshop: Discussion in Glasgow centered around some of the economic opportunities that exist for these two counties (Valley and Phillips), such as transport for Canadian oil and gas, tourism (including the new dinosaur museum and the route to Glacier National Park), the low cost of living, and value-added agriculture. Participants focused on a vision for the area that would include successful small local businesses, a well-supported arts community, diverse agricultural products for the global market, and energy development that is compatible with existing lands and resources. Recreation and tourism, agriculture and ranching, as well as business development services, were the primary issues identified for the afternoon discussions.

Participants in Glasgow discussed the existing relationship with the BLM as being well-managed and well-informed, and expressed the desire to maintain that connection. Since there is a great deal of grazing on public lands in these counties, and many locals make their livelihoods from hunting and guiding on public lands, participants emphasized the high value of the landscape and that newcomers should be educated about what the open space means to locals. Other issues surfaced as the discussions continued, as described in the more detailed workshop notes that follow.

C. Detailed Workshop Notes

The following pages characterize the workshop discussions in detail. All notes were taken on flip charts by the workshop facilitators over the course of each day.

SHELBY WORKSHOP NOTES

Toole, Glacier and Liberty Counties

February 21, 2007

Sport's Club

Participants: Ron Moody, Don Marble, Barb Cole and Larry Bonderud

1. Responses to Changing Economy of the West presentation and morning discussion

What are some of the key differences between Toole, Glacier, and Liberty counties?

- Liberty seems to have less opportunity and less inclination to change, along with some differences still between newcomers and old timers.
- In Shelby, there's a lot of change – the community attitude is welcoming (examples are Border Patrol, correctional facility and a diverse local economy).
- Chester has some important things happening – keeping the hospital going, adding value to the mostly agricultural base. Liberty County would like to see tourism that is LOW-impact to protect the natural areas and quality of life.
- Shelby benefits from having a generation or two of kids who returned to the town with good jobs and education. They have created a focus and a consensus among them about working together to provide good jobs so that other community infrastructure can be invested in (fire, schools, roads, etc). They created a plan to diversify the economy – started with agriculture and oil and gas, then consolidated all the economic development organizations in the area into the Port Authority – and together brought in transportation diversification (Amtrak, Border Patrol, and then correctional facility). This value-adding plan is not without its problems, but the group has made an effort to focus on outreach and education to keep the community informed and participating in their plans.
- Shelby does polling to keep on top of local issues and know the pulse of the town.
- Big new plan in Shelby is the idea of corridors – to connect those assets that already exist in the area with new and different ones. This would include wind farms – and transmission corridors – which would connect markets to wind resources. It would also include CO2 pipes, to pipe CO2 back to Canada, to make energy development green.
- There's also a plan for the business district – just finished with Downtown Solutions – not just Main Street, but a plan for the entire area where industry and business occurs.
- There's a big housing shortage in Shelby, however, with a crunch for homes due in part to new families moving in due to Border Patrol jobs.

What are some of the primary BLM land issues you'd like to see addressed in the RMP?

- Oil and gas remains an important part of the economies of all the counties.
- There is recreation in this area – although not as much as western Hi-Line.
- On the Sweetgrass Hills, access can be problematic, especially with an aging population. One idea is to open a trail in the Hills to enable people to climb them.
- Access through private properties is not much of a problem because landowners are still able to keep their lands open.
- The Sweetgrass Hills have ACECs, an amazing elk herd, and are surrounded by private lands.

- The BIG concern is the mining issue. With only 10 years left on the mining moratorium, there are few folks in the county who are not in favor of renewing the moratorium. Liberty would mostly like to see the moratorium be permanent.
- BLM now owns a string of 40's on the North Side so that there is public access to the border for recreation.
- Mining on the Hills would also affect the drainages – ruining the way of life for people living near.
- Marias River is open for floating – some sections are restricted and floaters sometimes have to be rescued by private landowners. Often floaters are also landing and camping (and starting fires!) on private lands, and the landowners have to do the work of maintaining their land.
- Enforcement is an issue. Community members think that the most effective thing the BLM could do it would be to put more 'boots on the ground' to help enforce the rules and take the pressure of the private landowners. There are only two rangers for entire Malta FO area, but the local people really have been great about stepping up to assist when needed.
- One of the realities that the BLM has to deal with is limited resources – and therefore is always interested in partnerships, working with local partners.

What are some suggestions you have as to what the BLM could do?

- Explore the Corridor idea with Shelby – especially right-of-ways, to keep environmental impacts to minimum.
- Tourism – day trips, especially out of Shelby. There are at many nearby: the world's premiere buffalo jump, the Kevin Rim, Discovery well, Baker Massacre Site, heavy-weight prize fight site, Lewis and Clark Camp site on the Marias, etc. Could these be co-managed with local law enforcement?
- Education and public outreach – local and visitors don't know about where and when they can visit. Most of the educational materials, maps, etc. for the area is in Havre or Malta.
- There is HIGH local value, as well as national and regional value, for undeveloped lands where you can protect open space and 'solitude for the working stiff' for future generations as well.
- We need to measure our success in the region by collaboration and having everyone come to the table and everyone 'going home a winner'. We need to ask the economic questions – will this benefit us? What's the local impact? – up front. We also need to balance our need for development, especially in the struggling counties, and the need to save unique natural landscapes.
- Find sites for wildlife viewing or other uses that are a benefit to the local economy and that the interpretation could happen on the BLM lands. Other areas could have day trips, etc.
- Public communication and publicity are VERY important – visitors need to know where, what, and when to visit lands.
- It's also necessary to acknowledge that success may look different in these areas because of things like local leadership, trends, and history. It's difficult to get a conversation started in these areas because they're all so geographically dispersed. How can we solve this problem? How can we work together to make this area competitive with small towns all across the West?

2. Key Issue Identification

In the afternoon, the group identified the primary topics brought up during the morning discussion:

1. Access
2. Public Outreach and Education
3. Cultural Sites
4. Corridor Development
5. Sweetgrass Hills
6. Marias River
7. Kevin Rim
8. Recreation and Public Purpose designation
9. Weeds

3. Vision, Strategies, and Measures of Success Discussion

The group then addressed three specific questions for each topic –

- What does the vision for this issue entail?
- What strategies could be used to achieve this vision?
- What measures can we use to identify success?

Here are the responses:

a. Access

Vision: No unauthorized use, especially on private lands.

- Private lands should not be the SOLE access to public land borders – there should be adequate access to all borders of public lands.
- There should also be enough enforcement to keep OHV use to existing roads and trails.

Strategies: Formal agreements with private landowners.

- More ‘boots on the ground’ from BLM side for enforcement.
- Land exchanges may be an option as well.
- State and federal partnerships, especially with Fish, Wildlife and Parks, or the Cooperative Extension since these organizations have the methods to reach the public.

Success: People are generally happy with ability to get to lands and to know how to get to those lands. Success also will be locally variable.

b. Public Outreach and Education

Vision: Local knowledge about where, what, and when will assist with behavior problems.

- Landowners also need to know who to call to report compliance issues.
- Signage and adequate marking to assist on the ground will help people to know where to go.
- Education about what types of enforcement happen and what to expect.

Strategies: Area specialists who can, without actual law responsibilities, assist with behavior issues. They can patrol block management areas.

- The public needs to be aware that they need to ask permission on private lands.
- Invasive weeds are an issue – perhaps we could have ID cards, like the Haydraw Mgmt. Area?

Success: Maps that are site-specific.

- Private landowners that are involved in management and education and outreach that is mutually beneficial.
- Access to Mineral Development without issues/transport problems to private landowners.

c. Cultural Sites

Vision: Follow the National Historic Register guidelines, etc for Sweetgrass Hills – in other words, continue the current management that does not change management practice.

- Examine the need for a trail within the Sweetgrass Hills.
- Shelby area cultural sites need management.

Strategies: Assess the opportunities and learn from past successes in the region.

- Use Tribal consultation, Cooperating Agency work, and protection of significant cultural sites.

Success: Public is aware of guidelines and behaves appropriately.

d. Corridor Development

Vision: Wind power development and corridor issues don't impede development.

- Multiple types of transmission that are concentrated into existing corridors to avoid new disturbance if possible.
- Minimize negative impacts of wind development, such as native prairie loss. Encourage development in areas with fewest other factors such as WSAs, cultural sites, etc.

Visions for Specific Areas:

e. Sweetgrass Hills

Vision: Renew mineral withdrawal.

- No gold mine.

f. Marias River

Vision: Not much interest in additional access, campgrounds, etc.

- Shelby day-trip area has potential for partnerships.
- Concerns about lower-river access (Misner/Loma area) that would bring in weekenders and too many other users.

g. Kevin Rim

Vision: Cliffs near Shelby, wind, oil, gas, and raptors.

- Potential for recreation and tourism, such as the buffalo jump.

h. Recreation and Public Purpose

Vision: If communities need land for public purposes (i.e. landfills, golf courses, etc) BLM may be able to help.

- Sand and gravel supplies on BLM land may be available.

i. Weeds

No notes on this topic

4. Wrap-up

Toward the end of the day, the BLM posed the question: **Are there differences in values between eastern and western communities on the Hi-Line?**

The group's responses to this question included:

- Hunting on river south of Malta very popular in Liberty County as well.
- 'Hi-Liners' have a unified sub-culture that is distinct.
- Open space that is acquiring higher value as it disappears elsewhere, this unites us all along the Hi-line.
- Is it possible for BLM to be involved in management of big ranches on Marias with conservation easements?

The BLM then thanked participants for attending and reiterated how the information gained from the discussions would be used in the planning process, and the workshop was adjourned.

CHINOOK WORKSHOP NOTES

Blaine and Hill Counties

February 22, 2007

Chinook Motor Inn

Participants: Darren Demarais, Craig Biggart, Rich Stuker, Randy Hanson, Mary K Jones, Bob Inman, Ward Van Wichen, and Anne Boothe.

Rich Adams and Stanley Jaynes from BLM also participated.

1 Responses to Changing Economy of the West presentation and morning discussion

What's the story here?

- There is little inclination to be compact or to zone for low-density development.
- We have a ripple effect from the 'Governor's Boot.'
- Housing prices are going up, which raises the question – where do the local residents go? Many migrants are coming from within Montana – people who are being taxed-out of their areas.
- In addition, there's a loss here of young people – they are going West and South. Schools and young folks are declining, and it's difficult to get people to move in.
- In Lewistown, there's lots of people moving in, but the downtown is not prospering. Construction is very big.
- Mountainous areas are growing but this area is not. Those who are moving in are retired – which is why health services are going up. Quality of life may be high, but people who are moving in don't always contribute in the same way.
- How can we move in those people who may be used to a different quality of life – used to mountains! – and how can we retain them here?
- There is a change in land use that's happening here: recreation is big, conservation and absentee or non-profit land owners.

- Biofuels, ethanol and transmission lines are growing, especially using CREBS to finance projects. There is the potential here for 10-12 long-term jobs per wind farm as well as short-term construction-type jobs. Canadian oil sands have people working on a pipeline to West Coast and another that would cross through these counties. The military is a big electric consumer.
- We have 200 miles of open air space and the potentials there are: Air National Guard training jobs, especially when they hire locally. Malmstrom AFB covers three or four counties.
- Hunting and fishing is BIG here as well. The block management plans are working well now because hunting and fishing is popular. But unfortunately, this is declining because trend is that the baby boomers are the hunters; young kids are not following in the tradition. Sixty to seventy percent of baby boomers are bird watchers now.
- Access to hunting grounds is changing – private lands are being closed off as landowners privatize grounds. In some places the access to public lands is also restricted.
- Agricultural folks are looking to diversify to sustain their industry and to be able to live among non-profits that don't want cattle on the lands.
- Opportunity Link, funded by Northwest Area Foundation, has potential. It's working on economic development, transportation, and addressing poverty.
- A lot of the wealth here is in 'old money' estates, etc., and is changing hands.
- There is also medical expansion, especially in Hill County, and we need to set baselines to watch every year. The medical sector is seeing an aging population and there is a capacity issue right now – not enough space to take care of normal patients.
- Rural areas are actually much better served than urban areas – beds in Hill, Blain and Phillips counties are sufficient now, but will they be in the long term?
- Unfortunately, there is no one entity that has the big, overall energy and economic development picture. The DOC has information on wind and pipeline corridors.
- MT Economic Development Association is working on economic planning for transportation corridors. Who can BLM call to include this information? Sue Ockert, Montana Petroleum Association, Cole Chandler – Havre, WAPA, and MSU Billings.
- What size corridors or pipeline? Although the major transmission and transportation lines are decided they are now looking at arterials.

2. Key Issue Identification

In the afternoon, the group identified the primary topics brought up during the morning discussion:

- a. Agriculture
- b. Energy Development
- c. Economic Development
- d. Quality of life/Recreation, Access to public lands

3. Vision, Strategies, and Measures of Success Discussion

The group then addressed three specific questions for each topic –

- What does the vision for this issue entail?
- What strategies could be used to achieve this vision?
- What measures can we use to identify success?

Here are the responses:

a. Agriculture

Vision:

- Sustainable and traditional.
- Decent beef prices as well as other commodities (wheat, grains, etc).

Strategies:

- Explore camelina. There is the potential to contract with farmers to grow 200K acres and to rotate with other crops – the meal is good for cattle feed or for humans since it has Omega-3's.
- Bio-diesel – there are seven proposed plants in the area – there is also an industry for biolubricants, motor oil (safflower, sunflower, canola).
- More feedstock from bio-diesel will mean bio-products leftovers which could lead to more feedlots, more cattle on pasture, yearling and year-round calving.
- CRP – this program is good for individual producers, although it may have different effects on a community. There are less agricultural sales in support industries, and less for schools and community. Sometimes people get cheques from CRP program and then can go south; they don't sell land and younger farmers can't get land. CRP has impacts on BLM lands as well, because it has assisted with wildlife management. There will be no places for border areas if that land is farmed again. But CRP lands may be less in 10 years since there will be more in production – Farm Bill could change things like CRP, public grazing and other subsidies. There will increased pressure on BLM land for wildlife and access. However, less CRP could mean more biofuels and other alternative crops. Would the agencies be a consumer of biodiesel? What about fuel stations?
- BLM land might be used for drought years to cover emergencies. This can also mean that ranchers don't plan to cover the hard years on their own land – they use reserve allotments instead.

b. Energy Development

Vision:

- Corridor consolidation to reduce negative environmental impacts.
- Reclamation and better practices so that the topography is matching, they clean up weeds, more pressure should be put on oil companies to clean up, and BLM should have better enforcement.

Strategy

- Give farmers GPS systems so they can better report problems that they see.
- Write a plan for Oil and Gas development so people know where development will occur.
- Plans will include more analysis of cost of investment and return on investment.
- Split estates are tricky as well. BLM should do public outreach on split estate process and information.
- BLM needs to address the concerns within the existing leases (such as timing, etc) so that the local constituents know what will happen.
- BLM needs to work better with surface owners to address their concerns (especially Access to minerals, roads, wildlife impacts and water impacts).
- Hold workshops to educate the public and get feedback. Maybe part of the open houses – a station where people can address this and ask questions.
- BLM should partner with Land and Mineral Association for outreach on this issue.

c. Economic Development

Vision:

- Recreation and public purposes – the BLM land should be made available for public recreation, community centers, infrastructure, sand and gravel, etc.
- Growth policies should involve BLM if BLM lands are near them.

Strategy:

- Bring projects forward during BLM planning process (site specific projects where there may be land exchanges for community purposes). Coordinate early and often! Both ways!
- It's helpful if BLM identifies these lands ahead of time and shares this with counties and towns.
- It's also helpful if towns and counties share growth policies and plans with the BLM and review BLM plans for incompatibilities.

d. Qualify of Life/Recreation, Access

Vision:

- People are a part of the landscape, using it for recreation and making a living from it.
- Economic diversity in local economies that supports all kinds of people.
- Hunting and fishing – that BLM lands stay available to do it at low cost to the user.
- Day trips have special designations and management available (such as diamond pipes, fossil collecting, cultural sites, etc).

Strategy:

- Interpretive materials from the BLM, including educational sites, maps, information and trails that are designated specifically for recreation use.
- Big-Sky watching? Astronomy tours?

Other issues surfaced as the discussions continued:

a. Milk River and water issues

1. St. Mary's irrigation project is old and rusting, but supplies water for agriculture, municipal water supplies, and residential.
2. Rehabilitation funding needs to be earmarked in Congress, and needs local support.
3. Fort Belknap gets water and land allocations as well as \$\$ to renovate farmland, BLM land is part of land trade and the BLM will look at which land to dispose of.

Vision:

- Water that is available to meet needs; diversion is repaired and water rights (especially with Canada) are adjudicated.
 - Water needs to be addressed as an economic development issue, now and in the future, because of population growth and change demands on water resources, and will require collaboration down the road.
2. **Coal and methane** - Coordinate with Coal Board especially around water quality? BLM needs to meet regulatory requirements. There is coal in northern Blaine County, funding sources available.

3. **Bentonite** – White Rock, south of Phillips, has claims; market is positive and there is the potential for more. BLM may do ‘reasonable foreseeable development’ document about this.
4. **Canadian currency changes** – Canadian dollar will be more favorable for Canadians spending here. What are the impacts? Canadian homebuilding plant Malta; other companies may set up distribution here. May be more Canadians here to recreate – this could be a growing trend. Havre Chamber of Commerce meeting with Canadian consulate happening in March. Border port of entry hours may expand.
5. **Homeland Security** – renewed interest in rifle range because patrol officers are marksmen. Could this be an opportunity for BLM to provide land? (it is not near BLM land). Nine new families, 300 agents and a \$30 million building are new to the area, in Havre and Malta. There are no big plans for border roads or fences.
6. **Weeds** – this issues needs coordination between state, counties and BLM.
7. **Motorized Recreation** – comes with hunters and is growing. Perhaps we can confine the use in some areas for tighter management. If we can identify appropriate areas for this.

4. Wrap-up

Toward the end of the day, the BLM posed the question: **Are there differences in values between eastern and western communities on the Hi-Line?**

- Regarding wilderness areas – limiting access especially by elderly, but motorized recreation access is everywhere and is also a problem – we need to look for a balance between them. Lots of good management strategies exist in the JVP and West Highline (Malta) plan. (example – they have a good definition of roads!)
- A 24-hour port could lead to four-lane highway realignment west of Havre. This is an important issue for the BLM to watch.
- More pipelines from Canada possible as well – CO2 piping for sequestration; North Dakota already does this.

The BLM then thanked participants for attending and reiterated how the information gained from the discussions would be used in the planning process, and the workshop was adjourned.

GLASGOW WORKSHOP

Valley and Phillips Counties

February 23, 2007

Cottonwood Inn

Participants: Vic Miller, Kevin Koss (RSA), Don K Swenson, Pat Anderson, Linda Twitchel, Toni Pederson, Cortland Barnes, Dawn Montanye, John Lacey

1. Responses to Changing Economy of the West presentation and morning discussion

What’s the Story Here?

- Outside businesses and residents wanting to expand due to lower real estate prices here.
- Reinvestment in Main Street is beginning to show up.

- Not as much growth in young people – even government jobs have stayed open for months.
- A small spike in school attendance, but may be due to consolidation from surrounding towns.
- Value-added agriculture and interest in the opportunity that ethanol presents.
- Difficulty in this area to raise equity for new projects.
- Access on the Milk River is through private lands, and it's shut down for the public, only a few can access now. Fishing is also declining a bit because costs are increasing and there was some bad publicity surrounding it. There is a change in hunting and fishing – we know tourists will spend one day here, but how can we slow them down and make it two or three days?
- Transport for oil and gas (and a relationship with Canada) are opportunities here – as currency rate changes there may be fewer Americans going north.
- Difficulties with grant writing or economic development due to the inadequate reporting/data information gathering in counties with reservations.
- Work force development is crucial – not only for young people to return but also for those here to get good jobs.
- Generational expectation (like wages vs. benefits) – what used to be a career-oriented society is seeing a shift to family-oriented.
- Hospital and retirement home are getting bigger because small facilities are combining and bringing in new expertise and new technologies. Also, the transport for elderly to and from Medicare providers is becoming an issue. This means that small hospitals are having a hard time keeping up, and often jobs are declining as well.
- Tourism! There is a new museum with dinosaurs, and Blaine County has a wildlife museum. We want to slow them down by giving them things to do other than just looking. Tourists want to 'get their hands dirty,' experience rural ranching life, etc. For example, how to capture cyclists who ride through the Hi-Line?
- People from the outside see all our open space and think it's a 'whole lot of nothing.' But really there's so much here: from cultural and historical sites to the modern people, to the ecosystem and the ground they're visiting.
- There's a very rich history here: buffalo jumps, tribal history, cattle drives, etc.
- This is a special ecosystem – the mixed grass prairie. Perhaps this needs to be specially managed?
- There are traditions of stewardship here, across the Hi-Line. There are also fewer hunters now in the U.S. Participants accredited this to a change in lifestyle (more video games and electronic entertainment) rather than in values.
- Land tenure is changing here, perhaps due to economic pressures.

What are some of the assets of this area?

- We're on the way to Glacier – a big tourist route.
- We have Northern Mixed Prairies with lots of native birds. To take advantage of this we have co-sponsored tours for birding with lots of money spent here (ex. Feather Fest).
- We have the Fort Peck Theater.
- The land is a major asset.
- We are a hotspot for research – especially from NGOs.
- Fort Peck Lake is a big draw for water recreation and fishing tournaments.
- The Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs are an asset.
- The people here, who have common values and are friendly.
- The cost of living is manageable.

What are some of the values that are important here?

- Friendly, helpful people.
- Small town values.
- ‘Return to Eden’ the movie shows that if you move here, you have to know what to expect; it’s very helpful.
- People get involved while they are here – it’s what we do.
- We have quality-of-life migrants, people who want small towns, etc.
- We also have ranchers who have to move elsewhere to afford to operate.
- We have dairies moving in.
- New operators who move in don’t buy as much land as other landowners (like those from the East Coast or outside Montana).
- Lots of people are attracted by the value of the recreation here and then they buy land for investment.

What is your vision for this area’s future?

- Diverse small businesses that can succeed here.
- Supporting and capitalizing on the arts and the connection to the land that we share.
- Sustainable small agriculture would be great, but global trends work against it surviving.
- More diverse agriculture in terms of crop mix and production for the global market.
- Possibility of cheap feed as biofuel co-products become available. Other markets for alternatives include CO2 capture, etc.
- Energy development should be compatible with existing land and resources
- Long-term energy development should be stable for local economies over the long haul, from any source; gas, wind, coal, etc.

2. Key Issue Identification

In the afternoon, the group identified the primary topics brought up during the morning discussion:

1. Recreation and tourism
2. Agriculture and ranching
3. Business development and services

3. Vision and Strategies Discussion

The afternoon discussion in this workshop was a bit more informal in this workshop than in the other two. The group discussed each topic, and addressed two specific questions –

- What does the vision for this issue entail?
- What strategies could be used to achieve this vision?

b. Recreation and tourism**Vision:**

- Outfitting on BLM lands allows people to make a living from the wildlife and public access.
- Although BLM lands are not the biggest draw in this area (Fort Peck Lake draws more people), the interest in them is increasing, especially with people moving here.
- As private access changes the interest may also change, so we should be aware of the high resource value of birding, hunting, etc – and keeping it accessible for everyone!

Strategies:

- It's a delicate balance between use and abuse – we need the good behavior because we want to protect that balance, so we need to educate the users. This is something for BLM to think about.
- BLM maps (like one for specific bird species) and development of some areas for certain types of recreation only are two ideas (example of the Sage Grouse lek which could draw visitors).
- More enforcement would be good.
- Visitor kiosks might be good as well.
- Partnerships with private landowners are good as well – it's the best way to deal with conflict. For better use of cultural sites, etc, we need to teach visitors the history.

c. Agriculture and ranching

Vision:

- Lots of grazing happens on BLM lands; in fact, there may be more on public lands than on private lands, since beef is bigger than grain here.
- There's not a lot of need to change this relationship now – but in the future, cattle might recede. There is also the pressure to manage the manipulation of ecological health using cattle.

Strategies:

- Good work between local livestock owners and BLM exists now and will be crucial in the future, especially as public doesn't always understand the ranching life and what is at stake.
- Grazing and wildlife are compatible, so there should be more education of the public on why and how public land grazing came about.
- We had good success with education when it came to noxious weeds – can we do the same for ranching/ecosystem health issues?
- It is also critical to work directly with conservation concerns and with organizations that have a stake here. They have good information on how to manage ecosystem health.
- The future of stewardship of the land and practices on the land is important. To sustain their operations ranchers need to understand the bottom line of keeping the ecosystem healthy – just as the BLM needs to do.

d. Business development and services

Vision:

- Wind farming is a potential for new development and diversification of the economy.
- Biofuels (which is also related to the agriculture issue) could be new development as well. Natural gas has long provided good jobs for locals too and shouldn't be forgotten in the new national energy push.

Strategies:

- This area could do a better job of taking advantage of the amenity migrants since there is plenty of open space.
- There is also a market for CO2 sequestration – if this can be done through the management of grasslands and selling green tags it would present a new opportunity.

Other issues surfaced as the discussions continued:

d. Water - Fort Peck Lake, Milk River, Bowdoin (these are not directly connected to BLM concerns).

- BLM does have water on the Uplands.
- In the 50's and 60's there was water quality work that is now outdated – we need to assess those projects again and find \$ to reestablish them.
- Bowdoin has toxicity issues related perhaps to drainage – salt blows off where it is collected and affects the range lands.
- Can there be partnerships here?
- Is there a market for salt?

e. Little Rockies - This was a congressional action land exchange.

- There is a Montana website if updated information is wanted – link to Zortman-Landusky (Try Baucus's site for links as well).

f. History - Outlaws and buried treasure. We should think about this for day trips, or for visitors.

g. County Right of Way – Is BLM charging for this? How do we manage county roads here? Does BLM have a role to play in this?

h. Special Designations - It would be great if BLM could consider a special designation for OHV to minimize motorized use impacts on other areas.

- Due to the great bird watching and other opportunities, BLM should analyze 'High Quality Viewing' designations, ACECs, etc.

The BLM then thanked participants for attending and reiterated how the information gained from the discussions would be used in the planning process, and the workshop was adjourned.

Appendix 1: Economic Strategy Workshop Agenda

Understanding Your County's Economy **Agenda**

Shelby, Chinook, and Glasgow, Montana
February 21, 22 & 23, 2007

- 9:00 **Welcome, Introductions and Expectations**
- 9:30 **Changing Economy of the West**
 - Brief overview of trends shaping western, national and global economies
- 10:00 **What's the story in Your County?**
 - What trends have you observed? What questions, issues, or concerns do you have about the county's economy? What's the relationship to public lands?
- 10:30 **BREAK**
- 10:45 **Local Conditions and Trends**
 - Brief overview of conditions and trends on public lands
 - Introduction to Economic Profile System (EPS)
- 11:15 **Small Group Exercise: Discussion about the Local Economy**
 - We'll discuss the questions, issues and concerns about the county's strengths and opportunities based on the EPS profile and other information.
- 12:00 pm **LUNCH**
- 1:00 **What's the vision for Your County?**
 - What are local assets in relation to public lands? What values do you want maintained or provided? What conditions do you want to see in the future?
- 1:30 **Small Group Exercise: Developing Strategies for the Vision**
 - We'll work in small groups to develop strategies for moving toward these desired conditions and identify how public lands can potentially contribute.
- 2:15 **BREAK**
- 2:30 **Measuring Success**
 - How will you recognize success in meeting the vision?
- 3:00 **Next Steps and Evaluation**
 - How will this information be used in the land management plans?
 - Evaluation of the workshop
- 3:45 **Closure and Thanks**